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## News from Alaska Power Association

December 2009

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## Association looking forward to new year with more members and increased legislative activity

Alaska Power Association is excited about the challenges and opportunities we will face next year. Despite the turbulent economic climate, our membership base expanded this year to include several new and returning members including Matanuska Electric Association, McGrath Light & Power, and the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA). Our newest member is Doyon Utilities, a Fairbanks-based joint venture between Doyon Properties and Fairbanks Sewer & Water.



Speaking of Railbelt utilities, there was a meeting earlier this month at which representatives of AEA and the consulting firm of Black & Veatch presented the draft report of the Railbelt Regional Integrated Resource Plan to the public. AEA said public comments are welcome and may be submitted electronically by January 6, 2010.

We also found ourselves busier than ever with the surge of energy-related legislative activity in the legislature. We anticipate more energy bills and related activity during the coming session and, as always, I look forward to keeping you informed on our progress. Thanks for a great year.

Until next time,  
*Marilyn Leland, Executive Director*

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## APA members to converge in capital for March legislative fly-in

Registration is now open for the Alaska Power Association [Legislative Conference](#) scheduled for March 9-10 at the Westmark Baranof Hotel in Juneau. APA members meet annually in Juneau to exchange information with



lawmakers, policymakers, and colleagues about the issues of importance to Alaska's electric utility industry and consumers.

The opportunity to hear from State legislative and administration leaders provides the association's membership with the insight necessary to shape the future of the industry. The conference registration form may be downloaded from the APA web site.

Alaska Power Association's legislative resolutions for 2010, approved by the APA Board of Directors on December 4, are posted on the [web site](#). For more information on the trade association's legislative positions or conference, contact Crystal Enkvist, Director of Member & Public Relations, at (907) 771-5700.

The National Hydropower Association (NHA) is holding its winter meeting March 11-12 in Juneau at the Baranof and registration for this event is available online by logging on to NHA's web site and clicking on the [events page](#). The NHA purposely scheduled its meeting to coincide with the APA Legislative Conference to make it easier for APA members to attend.

## Alaska energy experts take part in White House energy talks

Alaskans gave their input to top members of the Interior Department at an Energy Economic Forum November 4 in Washington, D.C. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and others including Bureau of Indian Affairs head Larry EchoHawk gathered at the White House for discussions on renewable energy and climate change.

Of about 200 present, a half dozen or so were from

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### Industry Links

[Alaska Power Association](#)

[Alaska Energy Authority](#)

Alaska including Chris Rose, Executive Director of the Renewable Energy Alaska Project, and Meera Kohler, President and CEO of Alaska Village Electric Cooperative.

Kohler said, "I think it was primarily a forum for the Administration to understand what some of the concerns were from the perspectives of rural communities, Native lands, tribal issues, and perhaps to roll that into whatever formula they are going to move forward with." *Source: Excerpts from the Alaska Public Radio Network*

## State officials visit Naknek Electric geothermal project

A group of top State of Alaska administration officials recently toured Naknek Electric Association's (NEA) geothermal rig site in King Salmon.



The following State cabinet members and staff visited the project: Attorney General Dan Sullivan, Department of Law; Commissioner Emil Notti and Deputy Commissioner Michael Black, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development; Commissioner Click Bishop, Department of Labor and Workforce Development;

Commissioner Joe Masters, Department of Public Safety; Commissioner Leo von Scheben, Department of Transportation; John Moller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor; and Angelina Estrada-Burney, Special Assistant, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development.

NEA General Manager Donna Vukich said the Bristol Bay electric cooperative worked with the Naknek Village Council, Southwest Alaska Vocational and Educational Center, and the Bristol Bay Borough to host the group, which was doing a community outreach visit.

*File photo (Aug. 2009): Crystal Enkvist, APA*

American Public  
Power Association

Energy Information  
Administration

National Rural Electric  
Cooperative  
Association

Northwest Public  
Power Association

Renewable Energy  
Alaska Project

## A tale of two co-ops: a history of partnering for success

[Copper Valley Electric Association](#) (CVEA) and [Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative](#) (CVTC) exemplify the cooperative principles by working together to promote the cooperative difference in the communities they serve.

Working together is not new to the utilities as they operated as one unit for a decade just following the 1964 earthquake. In 1974, when demand was great for both utilities, the CVEA/CVTC Board of Directors voted to separate. CVEA established headquarters in Glennallen and CVTC in Valdez. Both continue to support offices in each district.

Today, CVEA and CVTC continue to have a strong commitment to their communities and work together to demonstrate this commitment throughout the year.

### Relay For Life

In 2008 and 2009, CVEA and CVTC joined forces to participate in the Valdez Relay for Life, a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Each year, more than 20 employees and family members have participated in the 24-hour walk. Others helped raise money through donations, carnivals, potluck lunches, garage sales, and bake sales.

The relay is an excellent opportunity for businesses, employees, and community members to partner in the fight against cancer. The money raised helps fund cancer research and provides support services to local residents. This year, the CVEA/CVTC team took second place for the most money raised.

### Healthy Living Challenge

In May 2009, CVTC challenged CVEA to a healthy living challenge. The goal of the challenge was to encourage employees to live a healthier lifestyle through exercise and weight loss.

Valdez team members from both cooperatives joined forces for a salad bar luncheon to promote healthy eating and raise money for Relay for Life.

The challenge officially ended on September 8. The groups lost a combined 220.05 pounds and



156.75 inches from their waist, arms, and hips. CVTC's Shilah Butler was the biggest loser and CVTC's Tele Tubbies won for the team with a combined loss of 131.8 pounds and 84.5 inches.

Both cooperatives said the challenge was a fun, exciting and healthy opportunity for their employees.

*Source: Sharon Crisp, Copper Valley Electric Association*

*Shilah Butler won the CVEA/CVTC Healthy Living Challenge.*

## MEA issues RFP for 180MW gas-fired power plant

Matanuska Electric Association released a request for proposals seeking bids to build a new natural gas power plant at Eklutna.

The RFP calls for development of a 180-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant. The invitation to bid allows two pricing options: an Engineer, Procure, and Construct (EPC) format, as well as an Independent Power Producer (IPP) process. Under an EPC proposal, MEA would own and operate the plant after construction. Under an IPP scenario, MEA would enter into a long term power purchase agreement with the IPP, and the IPP would operate and maintain the power plant while selling the output to MEA on an exclusive basis.

"This is an important milestone for MEA in our local generation planning," said Lois Lester, MEA Board President. "I can tell you that it has taken a lot of diligent work over the past five years to get to this point," she added.

"The RFP includes a very aggressive timeline," stated MEA Interim General Manager Joe Griffith. "We are working to secure a power supply after our contract with Chugach ends in 2014," Griffith said.

MEA's all requirements contract with Chugach Electric Association ends Dec, 31, 2014. "At this time, MEA is keeping all power supply options on the table by considering power purchase agreements with other utilities, as well as moving forward with local generation plans. Our main concern remains which option, or combination of options, will be the lowest cost to our members," Griffith stated.

Potential bidders were required to indicate their interest by October 21 and attend a mandatory pre-bid meeting at MEA in early November. Final proposals responding to the RFP are due January 29, 2010. MEA and its consultant will then begin reviewing the proposals with plans to award the bid at the end of May 2010.

## Alaska electric utilities garner regional communications awards

The Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) announced the winners of its sixteenth annual Excellence in Communication awards at the Northwest Innovations Conference.

The Excellence in Communication contest recognizes the top communication efforts from member utilities from all around NWPPA's service territory, which includes eight western states and two Canadian provinces. This year NWPPA received 189 entries from 43 member utilities. Categories are classified into four groups: Group A utilities having the smallest number of customers and Group D having the largest.

**Copper Valley Electric Association** (Group A) took home a first place award for its annual report and a third place award for its web site. **Golden Valley Electric Association** (Group C) was honored with a first place award for its "U Can Save" media/advertising campaign. The Interior Alaska electric cooperative's "Energy Crisis in the Interior" campaign tied for a second place award with Peninsula Light Co. The communications work of Golden Valley also received a second place award (tied with Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative) for its "Make the SNAP Decision" communications program. **Alaska Electric Light & Power** (Group B) garnered a first place award for its "Reconnecting Juneau" web site.

## Industry Movers & Shakers

President Barack Obama recently announced his intent to nominate **Larry Persily** as the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects. Persily has worked for more than a decade on oil and gas issues for three Alaska governors and the Alaska State Legislature. His recent position was an aide handling oil and gas issues for Alaska State House Finance Committee Co-Chair Representative Mike Hawker. Persily served as Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Revenue until 2003 and returned in 2004 to assist the State of Alaska and North Slope oil and gas producers with developing a natural gas pipeline. He later worked in the Office of the Governor of Alaska in Washington, D.C., assisting with oil and gas, Arctic, commerce, transportation and tax issues. Persily has a B.A. from Purdue University.

**Bob Swenson** was named by Governor Sean Parnell as the new in-state gas line project manager for the State of Alaska. Swenson is the state geologist and director of the Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys, which is responsible for assessing mineral and energy resources. He has more than 15 years of experience in the oil and gas industry in Alaska and the Lower 48. Swenson will continue the State's work to evaluate the prospects for a stand-alone natural gas pipeline from the North Slope and the foothills of the Brooks Range to Fairbanks and Southcentral Alaska, a pipeline from either Cook Inlet or one of the Interior basins through the Railbelt, and for a spur line to Southcentral Alaska from a large-diameter line to the Lower 48.



Former State Senator **Gene Therriault** was named by Governor Sean Parnell as a senior policy advisor with an emphasis on Alaska energy. First elected in 1992, Therriault served in the Alaska House of Representatives from 1993 to 2000 including two terms in the House Leadership as the Co-Chair of the House Finance Committee. He was then elected to the Alaska State Senate in 2000 where he served a term as Senate President. He recently resigned from the position of Senate Minority Leader. Therriault is a lifelong Alaskan. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1983.

**Ron Miller**, former Alaska Industrial Development and

Export Authority (AIDEA) Executive Director, was hired to serve the Alaska State Legislature as a liaison between the legislature's committees focused on an energy policy. According to the contract, Miller will prepare a report and provide recommendations regarding a statewide energy plan. His work will be used to develop energy-related legislation.

Miller was executive director of AIDEA for five years, during which he managed the Snettisham Hydroelectric Project and Healy Clean Coal Project. He oversaw final reports of the Alaska Energy Policy Task Force's 2003-2004 work, including policy statements, plans and recommendations. He also served as director of the Alaska Energy Authority.



Kodiak Electric Association Director **Stosh Anderson** received double honors at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Region IX meeting in San Diego, California when he was presented with NRECA Board Leadership and NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director

designations.

**Dustin Egdorf** is taking over the reins from Mark Job as Line Superintendent of Kodiak Electric Association. Egdorf previously worked at Ameren Union Electric Company in Mexico, Missouri. Job, who was with KEA for six years, left the cooperative last month to pursue other opportunities.



## Homer Electric holds its first energy conservation fairs

Homer Electric Association (HEA) hosted its first Energy & Conservation Fairs in Homer and



Kenai this fall. The fairs offered the community an opportunity to get the latest information on energy-saving appliances and weatherization techniques from local vendors. The events featured more than 20 local vendors with expertise in the areas of energy-saving devices and techniques.

HEA spokesman Joe Gallagher said the benefit to co-op members was that this information could be found in one location at one time. He said the Energy & Conservation Fairs were a huge success for the utility with more than 700 people attending both events.

*An attendee learns about energy-efficient window coverings at an HEA Energy & Conservation Fair. Photo: Melissa Carlin, HEA*

## Chugach Electric donates 450 turkeys to charity

Chugach Electric Association donated nearly 6,000 pounds of turkey this month to local charitable organizations, including Bean's Café, the Food Bank of Alaska, Covenant House, Salvation Army, Mother Lawrence Foundation, and Hope Community Resources. The donation helps fill a need in the Anchorage community for turkeys for holiday meals and gift baskets that are distributed throughout the local area. This is the eighth year Chugach has donated turkeys.

## Meetings & events calendar

### **National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting:**

February 11-18, 2010, Atlanta, GA

### **American Public Power Association Legislative Conference:**

February 22-25, 2010, Washington, DC

### **Alaska Power Association Legislative Conference:**

March 9-10, 2010, Juneau, AK

### **National Hydropower Association Winter Meeting:**

March 11-12, 2010, Juneau, AK

### **Alaska Rural Energy Conference:**

April 27-29, 2010, Fairbanks, AK

**National Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
Legislative Conference:**

May 2-5, 2010, Washington, D.C.

**Northwest Public Power Association Annual Meeting:**

May 16-20, 2010, Sacramento, CA

**Alaska Power Association/ARECA Insurance  
Exchange Annual Meetings:**

August 11-13, 2010, Fairbanks, AK

**National Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
Region 9 Meeting:**

September 21-23, 2010, Anchorage, AK

▶ [APA Meetings and Events](#)

## Employment opportunities

**McGrath Light and Power Company (MLPC)** is recruiting for a **Power Plant Manager**. MTNT Limited is seeking a professional who will be responsible for the efficient operation of all contracted electric utility power plants, including inside and outside plant functions and ensuring compliance with all state and federal regulations. The position reports to the General Manager of MTNT, Ltd. Experience in supervision, financial management and budgeting is a must. The successful candidate must also have familiarity with planning, regulatory reporting, grant writing and monitoring. General knowledge of worker and environmental safety and protection, and minimum education, specific training and certifications in power production and distribution are required. MTNT offers competitive pay, medical and an opportunity for growth. This position is located in the village of McGrath. Please send resume and cover letter to [Ramon@thegrowthcompany.com](mailto:Ramon@thegrowthcompany.com).

The **Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA)** is recruiting to fill the position of **Operations Manager**. A bachelor of science degree in electrical, civil, mechanical engineering, or equivalent discipline with at least fifteen years professional experience is required. Demonstrated experience will include electrical power system operations and maintenance including electric power utility or an equivalent public agency work experience. Hydroelectric power generation and operation

experience is preferred. SEAPA offers an excellent compensation and benefit package including health, retirement, paid time off and paid holidays. For additional information about this job opportunity, contact: Shannon Webster, Southeast Alaska Power Agency, PO Box 110987, Anchorage, Alaska 99511-0987; (907) 258-2281; Fax: (907) 258-2287; Email: [swebster@seapahydro.org](mailto:swebster@seapahydro.org). SEAPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Copper Valley Electric Association** is seeking a **Line Superintendent/Manager of Operations**. The successful candidate will provide efficient management of the distribution and transmission facilities in the Copper River Basin and Valdez Districts by ensuring all necessary materials, equipment, supplies, and services are provided for the day-to-day operation of the cooperative in an expedient manner. The position is responsible for supervision of a three-person line crew in each district. Ten years progressively responsible experience and system operations experience in the electric utility industry, the ability to work well and communicate with the general public, and a valid Alaska Commercial Drivers License are requirements of the position. A minimum of a two-year technical degree is preferred and a technical certification as Journey Lineman. Travel between the two districts is necessary and outside the service territory as required. This position is salary exempt. The salary range for this position is up to \$110,000 annually, depending upon qualifications and relevance of professional experience of the candidate. CVEA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Copper Valley Electric Association** is also seeking a **Journeyman Lineman** to work in Valdez, Alaska. Wage rate is \$38.00/hr, overtime is 2X, excellent medical and retirement benefits including 401k program, paid holidays, generous PTO, some relocation assistance available. Position requirements: high school diploma or equivalent, area domicile, satisfactory physical examination including pre-employment drug and alcohol screening, Alaska Certificate of Fitness card and CDL Class A driver's license. CVEA has a CBA with IBEW 1547. This position is open until filled. CVEA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

To express interest in either CVEA position, submit a resume or application to Nancy Heidelberg, Executive Assistant, at [jobs@cvea.org](mailto:jobs@cvea.org), or fax a resume to (907) 822-5586, or call (907) 8220in

► [Employment opportunities](#)

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